

2016 – 2017 State Pre-K Program RFP Questions and Responses, Part 2

March 15, 2016

Question 1: Is the \$173,000/classroom described on Page 5 of the RFP the maximum amount that can be requested by organizations?

Answer: No. \$173,000 is not a maximum amount. Applicants should prepare a preliminary proposal based on your agency's anticipated costs to operate Rhode Island Pre-Kindergarten Program classroom in the cost categories outlined in the RFP, and for cost categories that exceed the State's estimated percentages, provide a detailed justification as part of the technical proposal.

Question 2: Will RIDE cover the costs associated with classroom construction/renovations above the \$173,000/classroom described on Page 5 of the RFP?

Question 3: If organizations are limited to \$173,000/classroom only, will other sources of funding be made available to organizations for construction and start-up costs?

Answer: No. Funding is provided for the operation of a State Pre-K classroom and may not be used for renovation/construction.

Question 4: Will RIDE cover the costs associated with the start-up of a new Pre-K classroom above the \$173,000/classroom described on Page 5 of the RFP, such as new classroom furniture, fixtures, and materials?

Answer: State Pre-K program funds can be used to purchase new classroom furniture, equipment and learning materials. However, fixtures may not be covered as they fall under the category of classroom construction/renovation.

Question 5: Can organizations use their federally approved indirect cost rate to determine their indirect costs for this program?

Question 6: If organizations cannot use their federal approved indirect costs rate, are organizations limited to 2% indirect costs only?

Answer: RIDE believes that the indirect costs associated with a Pre-K classroom are already accounted for in the budget category guidance provided on page 6 of the RFP. The budget guidance includes cost categories that overlap between direct and indirect costs, including property services, indirect costs/other, and utilities; therefore, we believe the allowance for these types of costs is nearly 15% of the overall budget. Although applicants may use their federal approved rate for the federally funded portion of these grants, classroom costs supported with state funds are capped at the percentages noted in the budget guidance. Because the split between state and federal funding cannot be determined officially until the classroom lotteries are held and poverty eligibility is determined, RIDE recommends that applicants prepare their budgets in accordance with the budget guidance provided in the RFP.